

EDITORIAL

deemed eligible for election to any of the clerkships mentioned in this act."

This section will reach the spot all right and will prevent much tinkering and tampering with legislation proposed and pending.

With this bill enacted it will no be possible for persons natural or artificial, interested in killing bills, to have INSIDE INFORMATION as to their progress and standing in committee rooms.

Discussions in committee rooms will not be detailed to salaried lobbyists of the corporations and other interested persons by men and women who are on the payroll of the interests and who serve their masters all the time while drawing public money as committee clerks.

A curious spectacle this, surely, which we have presented in this Legislature.

Persons hired and paid by the State to do public work are, in some cases (two that I know of), employed by the interests to do their work.

Who gets the best service, the people or the interests? The people's money is used to defeat the will of the people.

Another curious spectacle:

Two newspapers—The Times-Union, owned by the corporations, and the Tampa Tribune, controlled by Peter Knight—are against all measures that affect the interests of their masters.

Regardless of the merits of any bill that may be introduced, it is enough for these papers if they know that it will cause some trouble to the corporations—

And both papers will try to defeat it.

Yet the correspondents of these two papers serve also as committee clerks.

The very fact that they are able to do this, is evidence that their clerkships must be sinecures.

The State of Florida should not be required to furnish part of the compensation of those who are employed to report the Legislature for any newspaper.

It is bad when this condition exists.

When the public money goes to help those newspapers whose very existence depends on their ability to put the interests of a few rich corporations above the interests of the people—

The spectacle becomes disgraceful.

This is why the bill of Mr. Long will fill a long-felt want.

BY THE WAY

Attention of THE SUN has been called to Rule 32 of the Senate, which provides that when "courtesy of the floor is extended" no mention of same shall be entered on the minutes. This explains why mention was not made in the Journal of the "courtesy" extended to Peter O. Knight. In such connection the reason for this rule seems to be self-explanatory.

A correspondent from Pinellas writes joyfully of the victory in the House, and drops into blank verse as he thought of the declaration of Peter Knight that he was in Tallahassee to fight the Pinellas dividers "to a finish" and he would "make them look like 30 cents."

Here is the salt, Peter:

"Poor Peter;
He's petered out over night.
Peter O. Knight now stands for
Petered O'er Night.
R. I. P.
Likewise
Skiddoo."

THE SUN'S correspondent should not be too chipper. Let him think once more and then he will remember the Senate. That's Peter's long suit.

Nobody will say that there are corporation Senators. In fact, if any person cares to have it that way it can just as easily be said that there are no corporation-loving or controlled Senators.

Let it be put that way then—it is so much pleasanter. Admitting then that there are none, why should there be any, when enough vote as the corporations wish, as occurred on the defeat of the franchise bill?

Those who voted against it did so because they did not like the bill—it was not their fault that the corporations did not like it.

For a time yesterday it looked as though the Senate would have to take up the bill of Senator Trammell providing for a twenty-five-cent rate for five-pound packages, which was on third reading, but Senator Buckman saved the day.

The President walked to the end of his desk and looked appealingly to his right.

Nothing doing, and yet he looked still harder. Perhaps he winked.

At whom.

Who can say?

Maybe no one.

At last, when the bill was nearly read, Senator Buckman took the hint, jumped up and moved that the bill be made a special order for to-day at 11 o'clock, and the crisis was averted.

Seems to be some doubt about the two and one-half cent rate bill getting through the Senate alive.

Peter Knight, in his speech against the franchise bills, found time to say a sneering word about it where it would do the most good for him, while in the House Mr. Griggs of Franklin is cast down because he fears for its success in the House of Lords.

And from a grapevine source comes the news that the tag—"unfair, unjust and not applicable to the State at this time"—has already been prepared to tie on the bill when it comes up in the Senate.

Solace for a tender conscience—the tract from the corporation bible (the Times-Union)—"Conservative Men Were on Guard."

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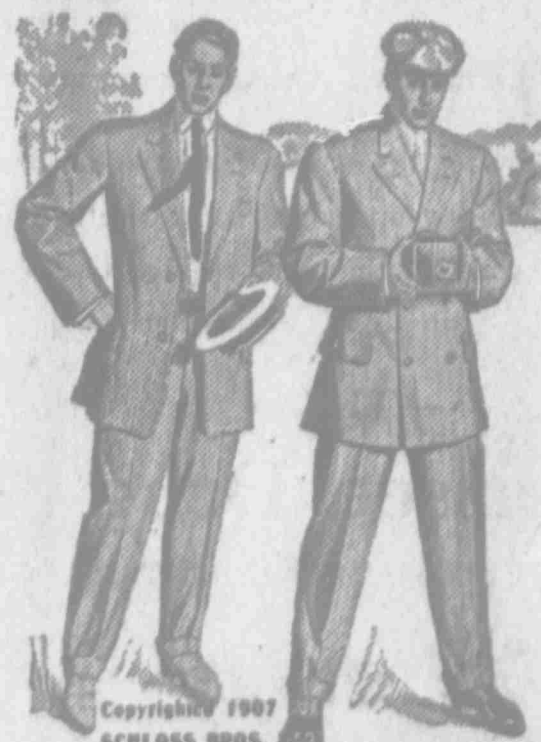
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